

# HIGH-SCORING SCRABBLE WORDS

DARRYL FRANCIS

Mitcham, Surrey, England

Given a standard English language Scrabble set, what are the highest-scoring words which can be made?

To be rather more precise, you may assume that the question merely relates to the face values of the tiles deployed, and has nothing to do with positioning on a board which may or may not incorporate the use of premium squares. For the purposes of this particular problem, ignore the board entirely! Of course, if you offer a word with two Z's, then you may score one of them at 10 points, but you will have to assume that the other is a blank, scoring 0 points. What are the highest-scoring words of length 2 letters? 3 letters? 4? and so on, up to 15?

The words have been taken mainly from the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD) and its British counterpart, Official Scrabble Words (OSW). Because these two references essentially stop with words of 9 letters (except for derived forms, such as plurals, past tenses and participles), the OSPD and OSW words have been augmented with longer ones from the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and the Merriam-Webster New International Dictionary, 2nd and 3rd Editions (W2, W3).

For the highest-scoring words, these references are given; lower-scoring words omit the references. However, all OSPD words are capitalized.

I make no claim that my lists are the best possible. I am sure that readers will be able to offer many improvements, especially from the wider use of obsolete spellings from the OED and Webster's 2nd Edition. An examination of other dictionaries should also reveal additional candidates. For example, the Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged contains ZIJ 19, JAZEL 21, ZYXOMMA 30, and HYDROXYBENZENE 42, and Blackiston's Gould contains OXYPHENBUTAZONE 41. Improvements should be sent to the editor.

14 zy OED

11 qs W3, zo OED W2, zs W3

9 AX OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, EX OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, JO OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, js W3, ky OSW OED, OX OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, XI OSPD OSW W3 W2, xs W3, XU OSPD

8 fy, wy

7 BY, ch, MY

6 KA, ko, ks

5 ah, AW, AY, EF, EH, FA, fs, HA, HE, HI, HO, hs, IF, OF, OH, OW, OY, SH, vs, WE, WO, ws, YA, YE, ys

- 19 jiz OSW W2, ZAX OSPD OSW OED W3 W2  
 16 zak W2, zek OSW, zik OED  
 15 FEZ, FIZ, hiz, huz, PYX, viz, WIZ, wuz, yez, zho, zoh  
 14 bez, biz, COZ, cuz, jak, KEX, miz, moz, poz, zac, ZAP, ZIP  
 13 ADZ, dzo, FAX, FIX, FOX, gaz, gez, guz, HAJ, HEX, hox, JAW,  
 JAY, JEW, jow, JOY, OXY, VEX, vix, VOX, WAX, wex, wox,  
 yex, yox, zad, ZAG, ZED, ZIG  
 23 jazy OSW, OED, xyst OED  
 22 QUIZ OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, quoz OED W3 W2  
 21 Jynx OSW OED W3 W2  
 20 JEEZ OSPD W3, juez W2, kazy W2, quax OED W2  
 19 FOXY, hayz, HAZY, JAZZ, jizz, vizy, waqf, WHIZ, zack, ziff  
 18 ajax, azym, cazy, CHEZ, COZY, JEUX, JINX, joky, kexy, MAZY,  
 PHIZ, QOPH, ZYME  
 17 dazy, DOZY, fixy, FOXY, gazy, kazi, knez, kozo, WAXY, zepp,  
 zink, znak  
 24 azoxy W3, jizya W3  
 23 JAZZY OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, Jemez W3 W2, squiz W3  
 22 Qazaq  
 21 azygy, JACKY, Jerez, jezia, JIFFY, jique, jiqui, kafiz, karzy,  
 knyaz, mimzy, QUAKY, quawk, zakah, zanja, zappy, zimmy,  
 ZINKY, ZIPPY, zymic  
 20 avyze, azofy, faqih, FURZY, HAFIZ, heazy, jowpy, judex,  
 QUACK, QUAFF, QUICK, QUIFF, quock, WOOZY, zacks, ziffs  
 28 jizyah W3, MUZJIK OSPD W3 W2  
 27 QUEAZY OSPD OSW W3  
 26 quizzy OED W2  
 25 EXEQUY OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, jeziah OED W2, jizyas W3,  
 oxyazo W2, zindiq W3  
 24 ajimez, FROWZY, MUZHIK, quacky, QUARTZ, QUEZAL, quilez,  
 quinze, WHEEZY, zequin, ZINCKY  
 23 BLOWZY, HAMZAH, khojah, ZEBECK, ZEPHYR, zythum  
 22 BIJOUX, BOMBYX, HJACK, jerque, JEZAIL, JOCKEY, juzail,  
 khazen, kuvasz, kvutza, oxazin, quasky, quippy, QUIRKY,  
 SQUAWK, wejack, xarque, yizkor, yuzlik, yuzluk, zanjon,  
 zymone  
 35 Qyrghyz W3  
 29 jackbox W2, jizyahs W3, MUZJIKS OSPD W3 W2  
 28 benzoxo W2, quartzy OSW W3 W2 OED, squeeze OSW OED W3 W2  
 27 BEZIQUE OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, CAZIQUE OSPD OSW OED W3 W2,  
 jayhawk OED W3 W2, jazzbow W3, JUKEBOX OSPD W3 W2,  
 MEZQUIT OSPD W3 W2, skeezix W3 W2, zephyry OED W2  
 26 kvutzah, sovkhos, squawky, zindiqs, zootaxy  
 25 ASPHYXY, backjaw, jackboy, janizar, jaquima, JAZZILY, jeziahs,  
 jocoque, jocoqui, makhzen, PACKWAX, queazen, QUETZAL,  
 QUICKLY, QUIZZED, SQUEEZE, SQUIFFY, ZYMURGY  
 31 mazopexy W2, quizzify OSW OED W2  
 29 Barukhzy W3, chaffwax OED W3 W2  
 28 BEZIKES OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, biquartz OED W3 W2, CAZIKES  
 OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, HIGHJACK OSPD OSW W3 W2, jayhawks OED  
 W3 W2, jazzbows W3, jezekite W3 W2, lazyback OED W3,

- MAXIMIZED OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, MEZQUITE OSPD OED W3 W2, MEZQUITS OSPD W3 W2, quartzic W3 W2, quizzery OSW OED W2, quizzish OED W2, quizzity OED W2, ZWIEBACK OSPD W3 W2
- 27 buckjump, CHUTZPAH, cytozyme, hypozoic, JACKFISH, jackshay, JACQUARD, JANIZARY, JAROVIZE, jasponyx, kevutzah, QUIXOTRY, quizzism, SCHMALZY, SQUEEZED, VIZCACHA, zoochemistry
- 26 aquotize, chafewax, coxcomby, crackjaw, EQUALIZE, EXORCISE, cacozyme, FLAPJACK, flipjack, FROWZILY, JAMBEAUX, jecorize, jubilize, majorize, MYXOCYTE, OXIDIZED, oxybapha, oxyphony, oxyphyte, QUACKERY, QUACKISH, QUANTIZE, QUATORZE, QUEZALES, QUINCUNX, QUIXOTIC, QUIZZING, SQUEEZER, syzygium, WHEEZILY, WHIZBANG, Zimbabwe, ZYMOLOGY
- 34 quixotize OED W3 W2
- 33 oxybenzyl W2
- 31 rhizotaxy OED W2
- 30 exchequer OSW OED W3 W2, exoenzyme OSW W3 W2, MAXIMIZED OSPD OSW OED W3 W2, oxyrhynch OED W3 W2, schizaxon W3 W2, zygophyte W2
- 29 dezinkify, HIGHJACKS, izvozchik, JAROVIZED, jayhawker, jezekites, maximizer, MAXIMIZES, MEZQUITES, objectize, oxygenize, quinzime, zygotaxis
- 28 chemolyze, EQUALIZED, EXORCIZED, hydrolyze, hypocrite, jackshaft, jequerity, jequirity, jovialize, kevutzoth, KIBBUTZIM, liquidize, mycorrhiza, mythicize, oxyhydric, oxytonize, pompholyx, quackhood, QUANTIZED, quartzoid, quickbeam, quizzical, schmaltzy, SQUEEZING, zoomorphy, zoophytic, zymolytic, zymophore
- 36 quixotized OED W3 W2
- 35 quixotizes OED W3 W2
- 34 hypozeuxis OED W3 W2
- 33 quickhatch OED W3 W2
- 32 symphytize OED W2
- 31 dysoxidize, exchequers, exoenzymes, HIGHJACKED, ichthyized, MAXIMIZING, objectized, oxygenized, oxyrhynchs, phlyzadium, quackishly, quinazolyl, schizaxons, zymophoric
- 30 Cockneyize, cyclohexyl, highjacker, hypozeugma, jackhammer, jarovizing, jayhawkers, jovialized, liquidized, maximizers, mythicized, objectizes, oxycephaly, oxygenizer, oxygenizes, quartzitic, quinzimes, rhizophyte, schizogamy, squeezable, squeezeman, zoophytish, zygobranch, zygomycete, zygophoric
- 35 kjeldahlize W3 W2. Zanthoxylum W3 W2
- 34 hypopharynx OED W3 W2, objectivize OED W3 W2, symphytized OED W2
- 33 dysoxidized, oxyrhynchid, quizzically, schizophyte, schizothyme, squeezingly, symphytizes, zygomorphic
- 32 chequerwork, dejunkerize, deoxygenize, dysoxidizes, glycyrrhiza, haphazardly, haphazardry, mycorrhizic, objectizing, oxygenizing oxyrhynchus, phenoxazine, woodcockize, zoopharmacy, zymotechnic
- 37 kjeldahlized W3 W2
- 36 katzenjammer W3, objectivized OED W3 W2, schizothymic W3 W2

- 35 zygapophyses OED W3 W2, zygapophysis OED W3 W2, zygophyceous W3 W2
- 34 dejunkerized, deoxygenized, oxygenizable, oxyrrhynchid, quizzicality, rhythmizable, schizothymia, woodcockized
- 33 benzaldoxime, chequerworks, dejunkerizes, extemporized, glycyrrhizas, glycyrrhizin, harlequinize, juxtapyloric, oxyrrhynchous, polychromize, quicksilver, rhizomorphic, schizomycete, woodcockizes, zoophytology, zygodactylic, zymotechnics
- 38 kjeldahlizing W3 W2
- 37 katzenjammers W3, objectivizing OED W3, zymophosphate W2
- 36 reobjectivize W2
- 35 exquisitively, harlequinized, polychromized, psychoanalyze, woodcockizing, zoopraxiscope
- 34 benzaldoximes, extemporizing, glycyrrhizins, harlequinizes, hieroglyphize, polychromizes, psychologized, psychometrize, schizomycetes, schizophrenic, ventriloquize
- 33 champagnizing, diphthongized, experimentize, ichthyization, jawbreakingly, objectization, physiognomize, psychologizes, sycophantized
- 44 benzoxycamphor W2
- 42 hyperoxygenize W2
- 39 diazohydroxide W2
- 38 hyperemphasize W2, reobjectivized W2
- 37 psychoanalyzed, reobjectivizes
- 36 hieroglyphized, psychoanalyzes, psychometrized, ventriloquized, zoopraxiscopes
- 35 experimentized, physiognomized, psychologizing, psychometrizes, schizophreniac, schizophrenics, ventriloquizes
- 45 benzoxycamphors W2
- 44 hyperoxygenized W2
- 43 hyperoxygenizes W2, squamozygomatic W2
- 40 diazohydroxides W2, phenylhydrazide W3
- 41 phenylhydrazine, phenylhydrazone
- 38 churchwardenize, Czechoslovakian, metempsychosize, psychoanalyzing, reobjectivizing, sympathectomize, zygophyllaceous
- 37 methoxycarbonyl, prezygapophyses, prezygapophysis, psychoanalyzers, psychometrizing, sphenozygomatic, ventriloquizing

# DICTIONARY RECORDS

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
OSPD	9	19	22	23	28	29	28	30	31					
OSW	11	19	23	23	27	28	31	30	31					
OED	14	19	23	23	26	28	31	34	36	34	36	37		
W3	11	19	22	24	28	35	29	34	36	35	37	38	37	40
W2	11	19	22	23	28	29	31	34	36	35	37	38	44	45